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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 936, FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 936; REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 877, LONDON,
PARIS, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

BONN PASS PRIORITY ACTION USAREUR BERLIN'S 212.

REFERENCE: BONN'S 2396 TO DEPARTMENT.

IN KARLSHORST MEETING WITH POLITICAL ADVISERS LATE YESTERDAY KOTSIUBA REJECTED TRAINSIDE STAMPING BY ALLIED TRAIN COMMANDERS BUT AGREED ALL WESTERN CONDITIONS SOVIET TRAINSIDE STAMPED ALLIED MOVEMENT ORDERS WHICH NOW TO BE EFFECTIVE MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 13. PENDING FINAL ELABORATION PROEDURE TRAIN CREW ORDERS IT AGREED RUSSIAN LANGUAGE NOTATION IN LONGHAND "PERMANENT MEMBER OF TRAIN CREW ORDERS FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSE. THIS PROCEDURE WILL APPLY UNTIL END FEBRUARY BUT PRINCIPLE 30 DAY MOVEMENT ORDER TRAIN CREW AFFIRMED BOTH SIDES.

AFTER EXPRESSION REGRET KOTSIUBA DPARTURE AMERICAN CHAIRMAN OPENED DISCUSSION BY RESTATING WESTERN POWERS ACCORDANCE PARA 1 REFTEL. THIS REJECTED BY KOTSIUBA AS UNACCEPTABLE. CHAIRMAN THEN MADE PROPOSALS ACCORDANCE PARA 2 REFTEL INCLUDING FOUR CONDITIONS. THESE ACCEPTED BY KOTSIUBA IN SPECIFIC REITERATION ALL POINTS. HE GAVE ASSURANCE THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY TRAIN SCHEDULES AND SAID IT IMMATERIAL WHETHER TRAVEL TRAIN OR AUTOBAHN AS LONG AS ONLY ONE ROUNDTRIP INVOLVED. HE ALSO STATED TABLE FOR STAMPING WOULD BE SET CENTER OF PLATFORM NEXT TO TRAIN. WHEN QUERIED ON TYPE OF STAMP, KOTSIUBA ASSERTED IT SAME AS AUTOBAHN STAMP EXCEPT FOR WORDING "RAILROAD CHECKPOINT MARIEBO". KOTSIUBA HAD NO SAMPLE BUT WHEN SHOWN STAMPS AFFIXED WESTERN

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ORDERS SOVIET SURPRISE STAMPING JANUARY 14 WHICH BRITISH AND FRENCH HAD BROUGHT ALONG HE AGREED THIS WAS STAMP TO BE USED. WHEN FURTHER PRESSED FOR SAMPLES PROMISED SAME WOULD BE GIVEN ON BLANK SHEETS ALL WESTERN TRAIN COMMANDERS AT MARIENBORN FOR DELIVERY POLITICAL ADVISERS.

RE TRAIN CREWS KOTSIUBA REITERATED REQUEST LIST CREW MEMBERS. WHEN TOLD OF OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES IF CREW MEMBER ILL OR REPLACED FOR OTHER REASON, HE THEN SOMEWHAT VAGUELY SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY HE OR HIS SUCCESSOR ISSUE MONTHLY CREW ORDERS ON BASIS LISTS SUBMITTED BY 25TH OF PREVIOUS MONTH. US POLITICAL ADVISER REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THIS AND SUGGESTED SUBJECT BE LEFT FOR LATER DISCUSSION SINCE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ALREADY REACHED ON 30 DAY MOVEMENT ORDERS AND DETAILS NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED HIS PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS. FRENCH POLITICAL ADVISER AGREED. UNDERSTANDING RE INTERIM PROCEDURE TRAIN CREWS REACHED AS STATED ABOVE. AT US REQUEST KOTSIUBA AGREEABLE DELAY IMPLEMENTATION STAMPING UNTIL NIGHT FEBRUARY 13/14 TO PERMIT PROPER INSTRUCTION TRAIN COMMANDERS. LUS CHAIRMAN THEN READ STATEMENT PARA 4 REFTEL AND HANDED COPY TO KOTSIUBA. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY KOTSIUBA FOR ELUCIDATION OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE" AND THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, AMERICAN POLITICAL ADVISER SAID THAT STATEMENT NOT INTENDED MAKE ANY POINTS WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE. POSITION OF WESTERN POWERS WAS THAT NEW STAMPS WOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND BEING CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE. IT WAS NOTED THAT BASIC POSITION OF ALLIES AND ASSERTION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE MOVEMENT ORDERS OF AMBASSADORS, COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF AND COMMANDANTS HAD BEEN STATED ON MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS BOTH TO KOTSIUBA BY POLITICAL ADVISERS AND TO AMBASSADOR PUSHKIN BY AMERICAN CHARGE AND AMBASSADOR, AND MOST RECENTLY IN REMARKS MADE BY FRENCH POLITICAL ADVISER AT MEETING LAST FALL WHICH LED TO ADOPTION OF NEW PROCEDURES OF DOCUMENTATION. KOTSIUBA AGREED NEW PROCEDURE WHOLLY ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE NOT CALLING INTO QUESTION PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING ON BERLIN ACCESS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO STUDY PAPER WE HAD LEFT WITH THEM AND MIGHT POSSIBLY REPLY.

IN VIEW

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IN VIEW GOOD PROGRESS MEETING AND IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF KOTSIUBA BRITISH POLITICAL ADVISER RAISED SPANDAU QUESTION WHICH SUBJECT DISCUSSED. SEPARATE TELEGRAM. AS LAST POINT KOTSIUBA SUGGESTED WESTERN AUTHORITIES SUPPLY LIST OF TYPES OF OFFICIAL MOTOR CAR LICENSE PLATES USED BERLIN TO AVOID INCIDENTS AT SECTOR CROSSINGS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE TO RECEIVE FURTHER COMMUNICATION THIS SUBJECT WITHIN WEEK.

AFTER CONCLUSION MEETING KOTSIUBA URGED ALL PRESENT STAY FOR DRINK IN-VIEW HIS IMPENDING DEPARTURE. HE THEN INTRODUCED EMBARRASSING NOTE BY ANNOUNCING AMERICAN WOMAN MOTORIST APPREHENDED SOVIET ZONE. AMERICAN POLITICAL ADVISER WAS REQUEST AWAIT HER ARRIVAL KARLSHORST TO SETTLE INCIDENT. AFTER SOME DELAY AND AFTER

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DEPARTURE OF BRITISH AND FRENCH, SOVIETS GLEEFULLY PRODUCED AMERICAN SCHOOLTEACHER PHYLLIS LEMIESZ, PASSPORT NUMBER 616250, NEWLY ASSIGNED BERLIN, APPREHENDED SOVIET ZONAL-SECTOR BOUNDARY AFTER LOSING WAY ON AUTOBAHN OUTSIDE BERLIN IN DENSE SNOWSTORM. RELEASED OUR CUSTODY AFTER KOTSIUBA "GRACIOUSLY" ACCEPTED EXPLANATION HER DEVIATION DUE BAD WEATHER AND UNFAMILIAR ROAD CONDITIONS. SOVIETS NOTED SHE SCHOOLTEACHER AND DID NOT PRESS POINT OF HER CONNECTION WITH OCCUPATION. MISS LEMIESZ STATED SHE POLITELY TREATED THROUGHOUT.

COMMENT: BRITISH POLITICAL ADVISER WAS OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY ABOUT INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE PAPER CONTAINING STATEMENT TO KOTSIUBA. HE FEELS THAT SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY FIND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE SOME RESPONSE IN WRITING AND THAT THIS NOT DESIRABLE IN VIEW OF TACIT UNDERSTANDING BEHIND NEW DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT DIRECTLY QUESTION RIGHT OF ALLIED AUTHORITIES ISSUING MOVEMENT ORDERS TO DOCUMENT BERLIN TRAVELERS WITHIN THEIR DISCRETION,

AS FAR AS TRAIN CREW DOCUMENTATION IS CONCERNED, ANY SOVIET ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE. WE WILL DISCUSS HERE WITH MILITARY RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAIN OPERATIONS AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS EARLY NEXT WEEK. BRITISH DO NOT HAVE THIS PROBLEM SINCE THEIR CREWS CHANGE NIGHTLY AND FRENCH PREPARED AT OUTSET TO SUBMIT CREW LISTS TO SOVIETS.

RE KIND OF STAMP TO BE PLACED ON MOVEMENT ORDERS AT TRAINSIDE, POLITICAL ADVISERS DO NOT BELIEVE SOVIETS HAD PLANNED ANY TRICKS

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THIS SCORE. IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT STAMP THEY HAD IN MIND WAS SUBSTANTIALLY SAME AS THAT USED AT AUTOBAHN CHECKPOINTS, AND WE NOW HAVE DEFINITE ASSURANCE THAT THIS THE CASE.

ALL IN ALL, THOUGH PRESENT RESOLUTION OF STAMPING ISSUE NOT AS FAVORABLE AS AMERICAN INTERESTS MIGHT HAVE WISHED, IN VIEW OF BRITISH AND FRENCH ATTITUDE, IT PROBABLY BEST THAT COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED. SOVIETS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM ORIGINAL DEMAND TO TAKE MOVEMENT ORDERS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS INTO CHECKPOINT OFFICES, AND IF ONE OF THEIR PURPOSES IN INSISTING ON STAMPING OF MOVEMENT ORDERS WAS TO ENABLE LEISURELY COMPILATION OF DOSSIERS ON TYPES OF TRAVELERS, NEW PROCEDURE REPRESENTS CONSIDERABLE CONCESSION. IT WILL HARDLY BE POSSIBLE TO DO MUCH COMPILATION OF DATA ABOUT TRAVELERS ON SMALL TABLE LOCATED COVERED BUT OPEN STATION PLATFORM.

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